

Cache County: Unique in Many Ways

The American Community Survey (ACS) has released its 2005 results, and for the first time Cache County was included. The release gives a mid-decade look at much demographic, social, and economic information about the people in the county. This edition of Trendlines' Outskirts section highlights the uniqueness of Cache County compared with Utah and the nation.

Demo-ing the Demographics
Demographics have to do with information about age, race, households, and other characteristics. When focusing on the age makeup of the 94,700 people that live in Cache County, it becomes quite clear that it's not similar to the nation, or even Utah, for that matter. The percent of total population accounted for by the 0-5 age group is disproportionately large...lots of very young kids live in Cache County relative to Utah and the U.S. In the county, 11 percent are less than six years old.

That's nearly twice the 7 percent comparison at the national level. And, if you were to compare the number for the oldest cohort of the population, those 65 years and older, the percentages just about reverse themselves. That is, only 7 percent of the total in the county fall into this older group compared to the U.S., which has 12 percent of all its folks in the 65-plus age group.

These differences also show up when the median age of the population for each of the areas is calculated. In Utah, the median age is 28.5 years; for the U.S. the median is 36.4 years; but for Cache County that number is a youthful 25.5 years.

Another interesting factoid is the lower-than-average proportion of Hispanics or Latinos in the county. In 2005 the ACS estimate pegged this share at 8.2. This is low compared to the 11 percent for the state and 15 percent for the nation.

Social Characteristics
Of note in the vast array of ACS data is the educational attainment of those 25 years old or older. Cache County, because of Utah State University, claims a higher percent of educated population than either the state or the nation. For the county, 35 percent of the population (25 years old and older) has a bachelor's degree or higher. Compare that with the corresponding figures of 28 percent for Utah and 27 percent for the U.S. and USU's presence is clearly apparent. Ancestry of the population shows very strong ties to Scandinavia (16 percent) and Germany (15 percent).

Working Statistics
Turn the page to the economic chapter of the ACS for Cache County and some interesting tidbits

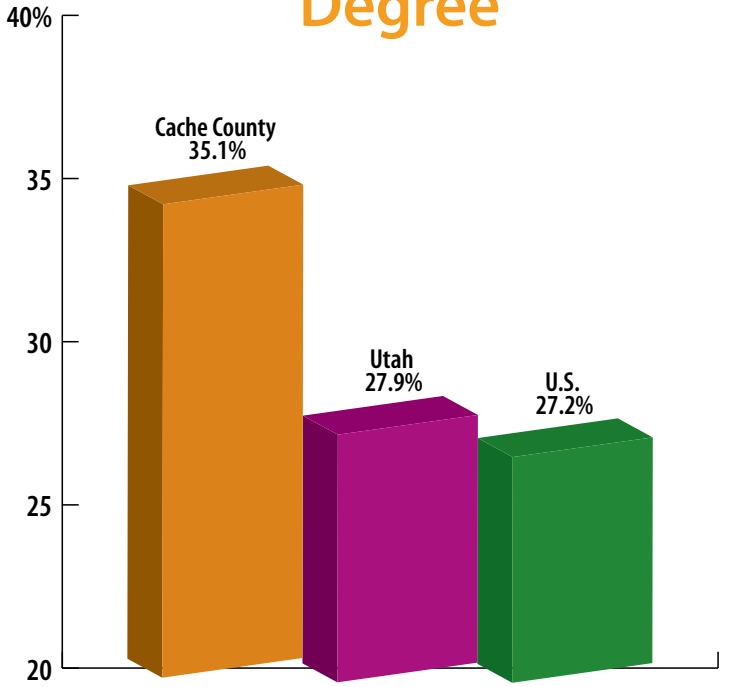
surface. Nearly 19 percent of the respondents indicated they worked in manufacturing, which was about 10 percent higher than both the state and the nation. Because of the University and healthcare facilities the percent of total employment made up of persons in healthcare and education was about 29 percent compared with 20 percent at the state or national level.

Cache County was behind the state and the nation for key income indicators. Median family income at \$46,300 was well below the \$54,600 for Utah and \$55,800 for the nation. The per capita income shows the dramatic impact of the very young population in the county. Per capita income from the ACS was \$17,800 compared to \$20,800 for Utah, and \$25,000 for the nation.

As it matures, the American Community Survey will be a good source of information about us in the future.

For more information about the ACS visit the internet site: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Percent of Population (25 years and over) with a
Bachelor's or Higher Degree



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Did you know?

- West Liberty Foods has formally announced that their plant will come to Tremonton. The company purchased 28 acres for the facility. The new plant is expected to employ about 200 and may eventually hire up to 500.

Standard Examiner

- Between January and May of this year there have been 462 homes sold in Cache Valley, 11 percent more than the 418 over the same span from 2005 and 29 percent more than the 327 in 2004.

Herald Journal

- The Bear River Association of Governments has been planning for years to create an economic development district. Now it has the money.

Standard Examiner